

11-11-2018

## Concert: Leila Josefowicz, violin

Leila Josefowicz

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### Recommended Citation

Josefowicz, Leila, "Concert: Leila Josefowicz, violin" (2018). *All Concert & Recital Programs*. 5884.  
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The Louis K. Thaler Concert Violinist Series Presents

# LEILA JOSEFOWICZ, VIOLIN JOHN NOVACEK, PIANO

**The Louis K. Thaler Concert Violinist Series** was established at Ithaca College by the Thaler/Howell Foundation in memory of Louis Thaler and to honor his lifelong love of the violin. The impetus for this gift was provided by Louis Thaler's son Manley and his immediate family.

Louis Thaler (1903-1979) had a long and successful career as an Ithaca attorney and was the founder and senior partner of the Thaler and Thaler law firm. He was the City of Ithaca attorney from 1940 to 1941 and president of the Tompkins County Bar Association from 1944 to 1945. He also served as a special county judge and surrogate judge. Actively involved in civic affairs throughout his career, Thaler was a member of the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors, the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association, the Ithaca Rotary Club, and the Elks Club. He was also an amateur violinist.

In 1927 Louis Thaler married Rachel Shulman, a native Ithacan who was awarded a scholarship to study piano at the Ithaca Conservatory of Music. Both were devoted supporters of the Friends of Ithaca College. Rachel Thaler died in 2004, at the age of 97.

The legacy of the Thalers' love of music lives on today through the Rachel S. Thaler Concert Pianist Series, established in 1991, and the Louis K. Thaler Concert Violinist Series, created in 2002. The Thaler/Howell Foundation, through the efforts of Manley H. Thaler, endowed both series to recognize and honor Rachel and Louis Thaler, and to ensure that outstanding violinists and pianists would always perform for the Ithaca College community and the residents of the surrounding area.

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November 11, 2018  
3:00 p.m.  
Ford Hall  
James J. Whalen  
Center for Music



PROGRAM

Valse Triste, Op. 44	Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) arr. Friedrich Hermann
Sonata in F Minor	Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)
Andante assai	
Allegro brusco	
Andante	
Allegrissimo-Andante assai, come prima	

INTERMISSION

Reflection	Oliver Knussen (1952-2018)
Adagietto (from Symphony No. 5)	Gustav Mahler (1860-1911) arr. Robert Wittinger
Sonata	Bernd Alois Zimmermann (1918-1970)
Präludium: Andante sostenuto	
Rhapsodie: Allegro moderato, risoluto	
Toccata: Allegro moderato	

*Program subject to change*  
Leila Josefowicz appears by arrangement with Harrison Parrott.

LEILA JOSEFOWICZ, violin

Leila Josefowicz’s passionate advocacy of contemporary music for the violin is reflected in her diverse programs and enthusiasm to perform new works. She frequently collaborates with leading composers and works with orchestras and conductors at the highest level around the world. In 2008, she was awarded a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, joining prominent scientists, writers, and musicians who have made unique contributions to contemporary life.

Highlights of Josefowicz’s recent seasons include engagements with the London Symphony, Royal Concertgebouw, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony and Sydney Symphony orchestras, the Orquesta Nacional de España, and the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, including on tour in Vienna, Salzburg, and Innsbruck.

Alongside pianist John Novacek, with whom Josefowicz has enjoyed a close collaboration since 1985, she has performed recitals at world-renowned venues such as New York’s Zankel Hall and Washington’s Kennedy Center as well as Reykjavik, Leeds, Chicago, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and Halifax (Nova Scotia). This season, she appears at Madrid’s Centro Nacional de Difusión Musical, Ithaca and Eastman schools of music in the United States, the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Canada, and returns to London’s Wigmore Hall.

A favorite of many living composers, Josefowicz enjoyed a close working relationship with the late Oliver Knussen, performing together over 30 times, most of

these with his violin concerto. Josefowicz has premiered many new concertos with composers including John Adams, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Colin Matthews, and Steven Mackey, all writing especially for her. Josefowicz gave the world premiere of Adams’s *Scheherazade.2* (dramatic symphony for violin and orchestra) in 2015 with the New York Philharmonic and Alan Gilbert. Luca Francesconi’s concerto, *Duende-The Dark Notes*, was given its world premiere by Josefowicz (also written for her) in 2014 with Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Susanna Mälkki, and subsequently performed again with BBC Symphony Orchestra and Mälkki at the BBC Proms in 2015.

Pianist **John Novacek** regularly tours the Americas, Europe, and Asia as a solo recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist; in the latter capacity, he has presented over 30 concerti with dozens of orchestras. He is a much sought-after collaborative artist and has performed with Joshua Bell, Matt Haimovitz, Leila Josefowicz, Cho-Liang Lin, Yo-Yo Ma, Truls Mørk, Elmar Oliveira, and Emmanuel Pahud, and, as well as the Colorado, Harrington, Jupiter, New Hollywood, St. Lawrence, Supernova, and Ying string quartets. He also tours widely as a member of Intersection, a piano trio that includes violinist Laura Frautschi and cellist Kristina Reiko Cooper. He has also given numerous world premieres and worked closely with composers John Adams, John Harbison, Jennifer Higdon, George Rochberg, John Williams, and John Zorn.